



# Building Healthy Communities

2006-2008

*How South King County is planning to  
turn the curve and how you can help...*

# Building Healthy Communities

A healthy community is comprised of individuals, families, neighborhoods, businesses, schools, medical centers, social services, local government, and physical assets such as streets, walkways, trails, parks, buildings, and open spaces. All the components are interrelated, and the health of each is necessary for the health of the whole.

Isolation at any point causes a breakdown in the path to a healthy community. For example, if children are abused or neglected they miss out on the critical years of early brain development and do not enter school ready to learn. If the situation progresses without intervention, they cannot develop to their full potential as contributing adults to our community. The result is that the entire community is affected economically and socially.

Even in a healthy community (a connected community), situations will arise where individuals and families require assistance. The difference in a healthy community, where families are connected to their neighborhood, is in where people turn for help.

## South King County is planning for the future.

This plan is designed to identify specific ways that all sectors of the community – individual businesses, local chambers of commerce, non-profit providers, government, school districts, and private foundations – can work together to assure that South King County continues to be a place where individuals and families can thrive.

This plan is the result of strong collaborate efforts of non-profit human services providers, United Way of King County, local governments, King County, Public Health – Seattle & King County, and businesses working together. The purpose of the plan is to provide a tool for the community to use for the next three years to continue to strengthen health and human services resources in South King County. It is designed to provide specific steps that the community can take to move forward to enhance and expand services to our region's residents. While there are many more opportunities to enhance and expand human services in South King County, this plan is designed to address issues that 1) benefit all of South King County, 2) have community support to address the issue and 3) significant progress can be made regarding the issue within the next two to three years. This is the third installment of the original Building Health and Human Services in South King County: A Business Plan for our Community. The format has been updated to complement the "A Matter of Need" document published by the South King Council of Human Services.

# Self-Sufficiency

## RESULT:

- Individuals gain skills in building assets and are moving toward self sufficiency.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

- Low-income households at 50% of the area median income and below.

## INDICATORS:

1. Increase in the utilization of assistance programs.
2. Increase of money coming back to South King County residents through Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
3. Decreased use of fringe and predatory banking systems and products.
4. Target populations within South King County open new accounts and/or deposit savings in local financial institutions, including Individual Development Accounts (IDA's).
5. Development of woman, minority or immigrant owned small businesses.



## BASELINE DATA:

- 41% of households in South King County live below 80% of median income and 9,538 families in South King County live below the poverty line.

***Nearly 10,000 South King County families live below the poverty level – more than in any other part of the county.***

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

For low-income households, every dollar of income is important and every unnecessary expense places them at greater risk of losing their housing and their ability to care for themselves and their families. Many working families are living in a constant state of emergency seeking ways their income can be stretched to provide for basic needs and are barely getting by. It takes time and perseverance to get the training, education and experience

to substantially increase income. That is why people need to make the most out of every dollar they earn.

Promoting tax credits, reducing transactional costs for financial services and connecting people with available benefits helps to provide additional disposable income that will help people get by.

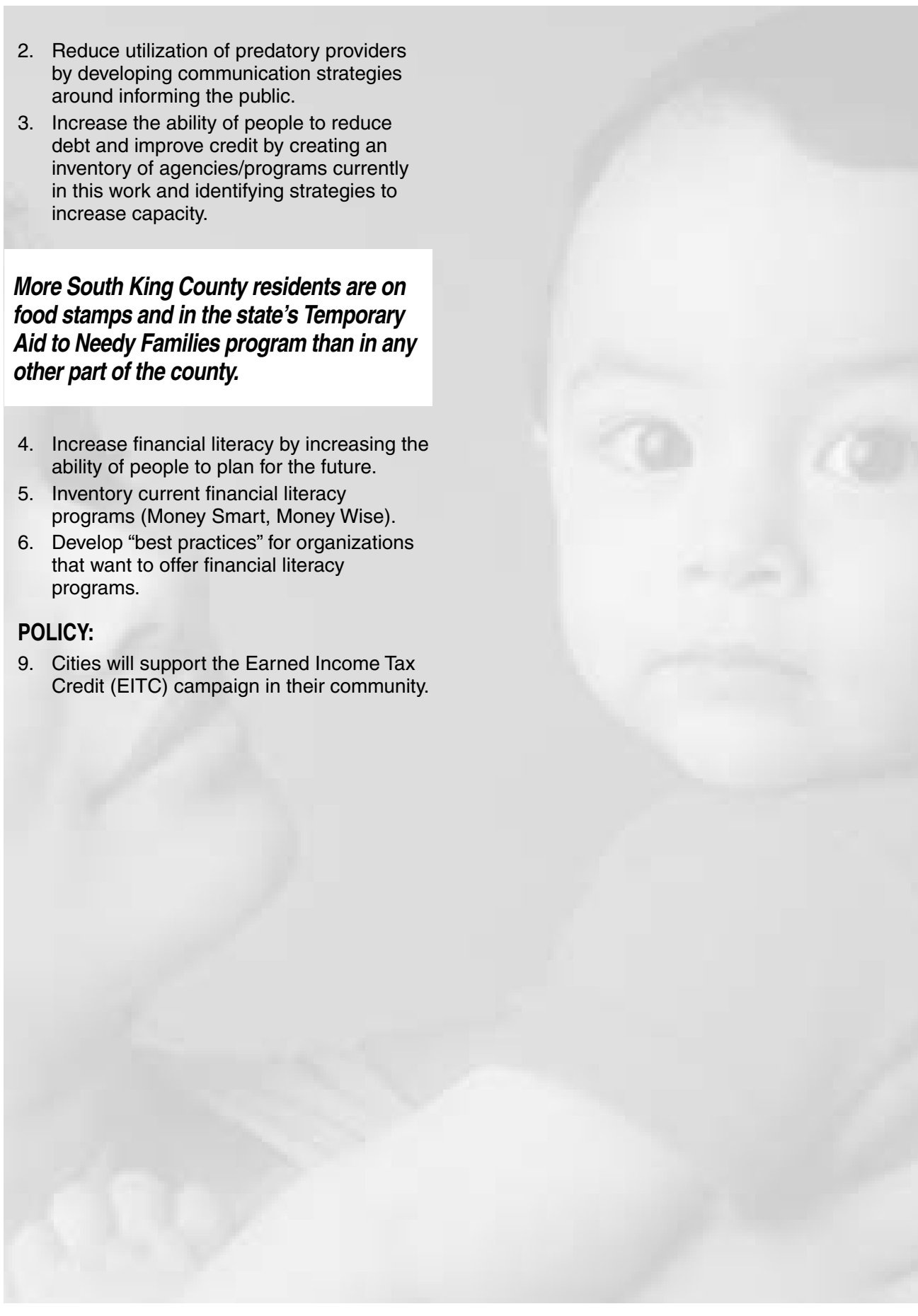
Increasing financial literacy, reducing debt and connecting them with mainstream financial institutions helps them begin to get ahead. By maximizing income and providing opportunities for people to invest in themselves they can build a financial foundation that will allow them to stay ahead and plan for their future.

## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- Community colleges
- Community based employment programs
- Non-profits
- Financial institutions
- Foundations

## ACTION PLAN:

1. Establish a workgroup to develop and support small business opportunities (inventory available resources, provide small business support/mentoring, offer opportunities for business tax assistance, and offer opportunities to IDA and micro-lending programs).

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2. Reduce utilization of predatory providers by developing communication strategies around informing the public.
  3. Increase the ability of people to reduce debt and improve credit by creating an inventory of agencies/programs currently in this work and identifying strategies to increase capacity.

***More South King County residents are on food stamps and in the state's Temporary Aid to Needy Families program than in any other part of the county.***

4. Increase financial literacy by increasing the ability of people to plan for the future.
5. Inventory current financial literacy programs (Money Smart, Money Wise).
6. Develop "best practices" for organizations that want to offer financial literacy programs.

**POLICY:**

9. Cities will support the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) campaign in their community.

# Housing & Homelessness

## RESULT:

- Every individual in South King County has access to permanent, stable housing.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

- South King County residents who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.



## INDICATORS:

1. Turn-away rates for emergency rent assistance decrease.
2. Greater number of low-cost units available.
3. Landlords do not have empty units; and do not have to go through expensive eviction process.
4. Number of homeless individuals identified in communities declines.
5. Waitlist for supportive housing and housing programs decreases.

## BASELINE DATA:

- The King County Crisis Clinic's Community Information Line reports that in 2003, they had 14,963 calls from individuals

identifying themselves as homeless. Of the 6,844 callers who provided geographical information, 1,799 were from South King County (roughly 27%).

- Catholic Community Services in Kent, WA had a turn away rate of 88% in April 2005 for people from South King County calling for rent assistance and shelter.
- According to the 2004 One Night Count, at least 8,300 people experience homelessness on any given night in King County.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

There is a large disparity between income and housing costs in King County. Forty percent of the renters and twenty-seven percent of homeowners in South King County are paying more than 30% of their household income for rent. As a result, many South King County families are at constant risk of losing their current housing and becoming homeless.


## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- King County
- Washington State
- Committee to End Homelessness in King County
- Landlords/Managers
- Housing Providers
- Community Organizations
- United Way of King County
- Financial institutions
- Neighborhood Organizations/Associations
- Faith based organizations

***In 2003 59% of persons served in emergency shelter were from South King County.***

## ACTION PLAN:

1. Promote eviction education (landlord/tenant education; "Ready-to-Rent" type programming).
2. Educate the public and community leaders about the benefit of developing work-force housing in their community.

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3. Establish a South King County Homelessness Task Force.

**POLICY:**

4. South King County cities will adopt the 10 year plan to End Homelessness.

***14 families were turned away for every one served through the Multi-Service Center's homeless shelter.***

# Community Engagement

## RESULT:

- Neighborhood organizations are strongly organized in all areas of the community and are actively involved in the community's civic affairs and activities.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

- South King County neighborhoods.

## INDICATORS:

1. Increased involvement in community organizations.
2. Increase in reported level of neighborhood social cohesion.
3. Identifiable neighborhoods having a functioning neighborhood association.
4. Increased voter registration.
5. Number of registered voters that actually voted increases.

## BASELINE DATA:

- The 2004 social cohesion levels reported in Seattle (37.4) and South King County (37.4) were significantly lower than in East King County (39.6).
- 79% of South King County residents reported being very or somewhat active in one or more community organizations in 2004 as compared to 86% of Seattle residents, 85% of East King County residents, and 84% of North King County residents.

***Only 57% of adults in South King County reported living in a close-knit neighborhood.***

- 77% of adults in South King County reported that people in their neighborhood could be trusted, compared to 90% of adults in East King County.
- In South King County, approximately only 30% of registered voters voted in the 2005 primary election.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

Community engagement is a critical factor in creating healthy communities. Active



neighborhood organizations are vital in creating a connected community. They lead to personal networks that are critical to healthy families and children. Through these networks, neighbors come to know and trust each other. They watch over each other's children and provide support when things go wrong.

## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- School Districts
- Community organizations
- Non-profits
- Neighborhood organizations/associations

## ACTION PLAN:

1. Cities offer neighborhoods "community engagement" grants.
2. Youth are provided opportunities to learn about community engagement through mentoring, job shadowing (elected officials, city staff, community organizations, etc) and leadership training.

## POLICY:

3. South King County will cities adopt Community Engagement as a goal.

# Early Childhood

## RESULT:

- Children and families most in need of services to help their development are able to get services early.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

- Families in South King County with young children.

## INDICATORS:

1. Information for parents and caregivers is provided in multiple languages and in various media.



2. Parents and caregivers report improved connection and access to the resources they need.
3. Improved communication across a wide variety of fields and services.

## BASELINE DATA:

- There are 45,385 children (birth to age 5) in South King County and approximately 31% live in families that are 200% of poverty level.

- Approximately 2% of children birth to age 3 have developmental delays in one or more areas and 1.9% children birth to 3 receive services.

***South King County is home to many young families – nearly twice as many as in any other part of the county.***

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

Early intervention is a term given to activities and services that focus on children birth to three and their families. The goal is that children reach their maximum potential and families and caregivers are provided with information and support they need to reach this goal. The first few years of life shape a child's ability to learn, relate to others and be successful in school.

## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- King County
- Community organizations
- Non-profits
- School Districts
- Child care centers
- Parents and caregivers
- Medical clinics
- Play and learn groups
- United Way of King County
- Local businesses

## ACTION PLAN:

1. Establish or improve services and supports that help families develop responsive, nurturing parent-child relationships and strong, respectful, trusting relationships with support systems.
2. Make information about resources and supports readily available, and present it in a form accessible to parents most in need.
3. Advocate for funding and eligibility policies that make services available to families when they need them, rather than requiring a diagnostic label to trigger funding and access.

## POLICY:

South King County cities will adopt early intervention as a funding priority,



# Youth

## RESULT:

- Children and youth are ready for educational success, work and life.

## POPULATION:

- Families in South King County with school age children and youth.

## INDICATORS:

1. Increased partnerships between schools, organizations and families.
2. Increased parent involvement in school and engagement in child’s learning.
3. Increased academic success.
4. Increase in the variety of programs available to youth in all areas, including rural areas.

***South King County has more than twice the number of public school students enrolled in the federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program as Seattle, and more than three times as many as East and North King County combined.***

## BASELINE DATA:

- Approximately 37% of school age children in South King County are enrolled in free and reduced lunch programs.
- Federal data indicates that 37% of children are in self-care situations before and after school.
- The graduation rate in South King County schools ranges from 60.9% to 88.9%.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

There are 116,481 children enrolled in K – 12 public and private schools in South King County. The racial and ethnic diversity of children continues to grow and the number of English Language Learners (ELL) has grown dramatically. Approximately 43,000 children are enrolled in free and reduced lunch programs. Each of these factors is critical to how children do in school, how they relate to family and friends, and how they feel about themselves. There is growing evidence that quality out of school opportunities that complement

environments created by schools and families promote success in academics and in life.

## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- Non-profit youth and family organizations
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- School Districts
- Community organizations
- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Faith based organizations
- Local businesses



## ACTION PLAN:

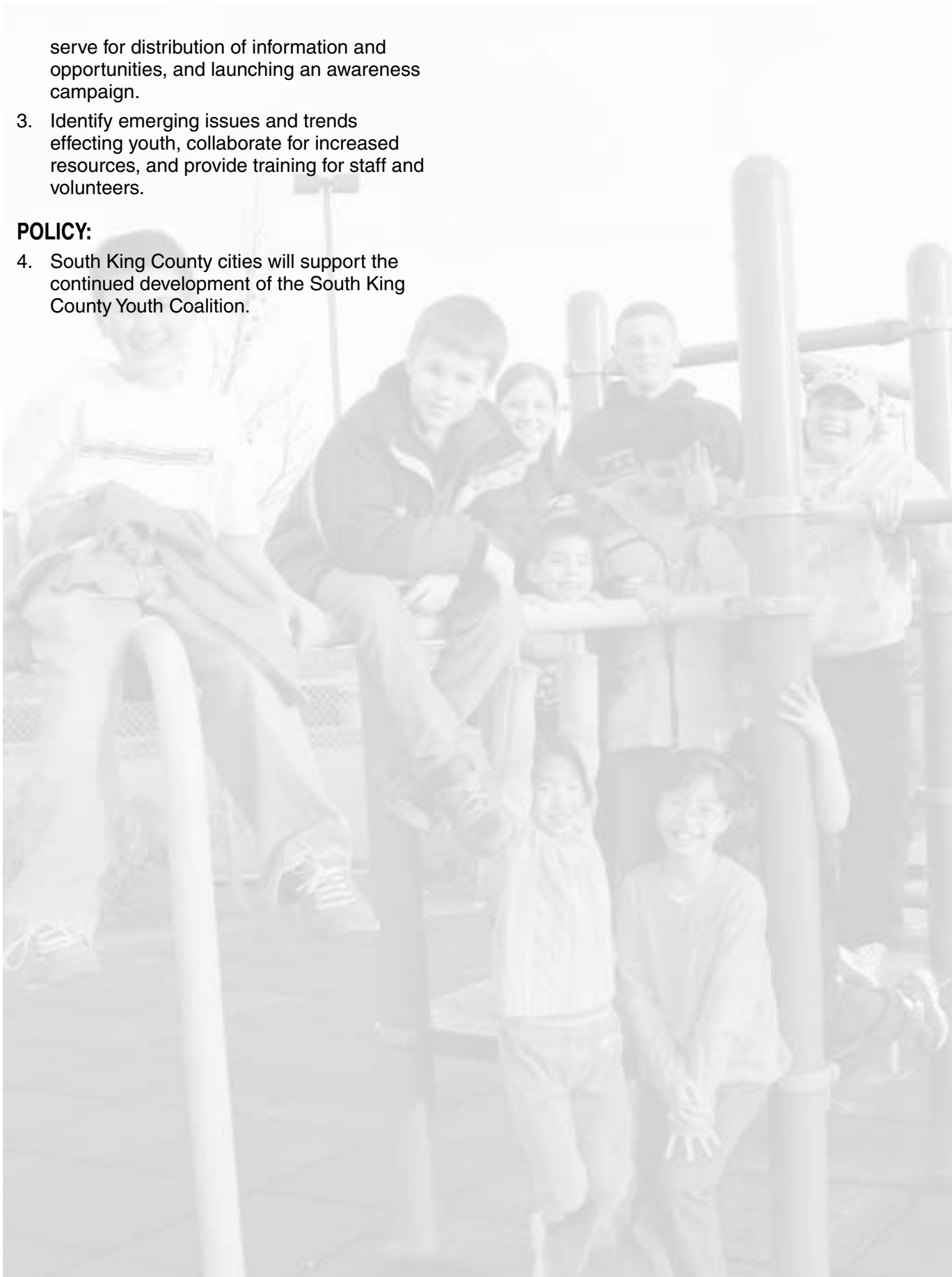
1. Engage communities in using their resources and capacity to increase tutoring, provide cultural and language programs, involve parents and caregivers in schools and provide youth leadership and empowerment.
2. Develop a network structure for communicating and sharing information by creating a website, developing a list

serve for distribution of information and opportunities, and launching an awareness campaign.

3. Identify emerging issues and trends effecting youth, collaborate for increased resources, and provide training for staff and volunteers.

**POLICY:**

4. South King County cities will support the continued development of the South King County Youth Coalition.



# Domestic Violence

## RESULT:

School aged children/youth learn about domestic violence, how to identify and use non-violent methods for solving problems, and how to recognize and foster healthy dating and peer relationships.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

South King County school aged children/youth.



## INDICATORS:

1. Increased number of children/youth educated about domestic violence.
2. Improved safety in dangerous situations for children/youth exposed to domestic violence and increased ability to avoid such situations when possible.
3. Increased number of children/youth use non-violent means to solve interpersonal conflict.
4. Children/youth who are victims of domestic violence develop and/or strengthen coping abilities.
5. Children/youth recognize and engage in healthy dating and peer relationships.

## BASELINE DATA:

- The Department of Justice reports that 31% of women living in the US report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Further, it reports that slightly more than half of all female victims of intimate partner violence live in households with children under the age of twelve.
- In 2002 Washington State researchers (English et al) found that 40% (14,944) of all accepted CPS referrals during a specific time period had indications of DV included in the referral allegations.
- The 2004 Washington State Fatality Review reported a total of 308 DV fatalities in Washington State between January 1997 and August 2002; 19 of these deaths involved children. In 17% of the DV fatality cases, children under the age of 18 were present at the homicide scene.
- An estimated 18,000 to 28,000 King County children ages 0 to 17 annually witness assaults by one parent against another.
- 41% of all children living in King County live in South King County; by extrapolation, it is estimated that between 7,380 and 11,480 children living in South King County have annually witnessed assaults by one parent against another.
- Although many parents think that their children are not aware of the violence, between 80-90% of children from violent homes know what happened and can give detailed descriptions of the violent events.
- Children who live in violent homes are often survivors of physical abuse themselves. In a national survey of over 6,000 American families, researchers found that 50% of the men who assaulted their wives also abused their children.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

The impact of domestic violence on children varies from profound to little impact at all. On average, children exposed show more problems than those not exposed. The impact depends on many factors including the frequency, severity and chronicity of the violence, the child's direct exposure to the violence, the child's own internal capacity to cope with the exposure, and other protective and risk factors in the child's environment.

Witnessing domestic violence as a child can have a lifetime impact. Boys who witness interparental violence are four times more likely to be physically abusive in dating relationships than boys who grow up in nonviolent homes. Children exposed to domestic violence may experience long-term problems with physical, cognitive, and social development, depression, anxiety, aggression, suicide attempts, and an enduring belief that violence is appropriate in family and intimate relationships. Studies indicate that boys exposed to family violence believe more than others that “acting aggressively enhances one’s reputation or self-image.”

There are very few opportunities for school-aged children to learn about domestic violence and its many ramifications from professionals, and to engage in a learning process that will help them recognize and achieve healthy, non-violent relationships.

#### **PARTNERS:**

- South King County cities
- School Districts
- Researchers
- Local mentoring programs
- Non-profit youth and family agencies
- Community organizations
- Domestic violence agencies
- Step Up program
- Anti-bullying programs

***Domestic violence calls to the Crisis Clinic reflected a 25% increase in calls originating in South King County between 2003 and 2004.***

#### **ACTION PLAN:**

1. Identify an evidenced based school curriculum (elementary, middle or high school) that helps youth understand the basics of domestic violence, that emphasizes the importance of safety planning, that provides tools for developing non-violent means to solve interpersonal

conflict, and depending on the age group, provides a teen dating violence component.

2. Work with one South King County school district to implement the curriculum at one or more schools.
3. Evaluate the program using pre, post and three month follow up tests to determine the efficacy.

#### **POLICY:**

4. South King County cities will encourage the implementation of school based domestic violence curriculum.

# Sexual Assault & Sexual Violence

## RESULT:

- The community responds proactively to issues of sexual assault and sexual violence.

## IMPACTED POPULATION:

- Victims of sexual assault and their families, individuals at particular risk of sexual assault, and community members who are concerned about violence in their neighborhoods.

***Approximately 50% of clients served by the King County Sexual Assault Resource Center are from South King County.***

## INDICATORS:

1. Increased numbers of victims seeking help.
2. Parents have a greater awareness of their role in their child's safety.
3. Communities more willing to use resources for questions or concerns about safety, prevention or assault.
4. Greater coordination between law enforcement and communities to insure better information about the transition of sex offenders.

## BASELINE DATA:

- Statewide study in 2001 indicated that 39% of victims in this state did not seek assistance of any sort for sexual assault and only 15% reported to law enforcement.
- Between 2002-2004, King County Sexual Assault Resource Center experienced an 11% increase in the number of South King County victims/families seeking services.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

While reporting of sexual assault has increased markedly over the past 25 years, not all victims get the assistance they need to recover; awareness and education of the issue lags, and prevention programs are not widely embraced.

South King County has the greatest number of reported child/teen sexual assaults. The sexual abuse of a child/teen can throw a family into turmoil, hampering the individual victim's recovery as well and placing the whole family at risk for other problems.

Parents do not always have the skills or knowledge to talk with their children and deal with issues of violence. Communities and neighborhoods who are concerned about offenders living in their areas are not sure about their (the community) role in prevention and building safer communities and are often reluctant to take a role; hoping instead that 'systems' will step up. At the same time, there is little expectation that the system will be helpful, and this expectation is confirmed by a lack of system accountability and credibility regarding sexual assault issues. Resources for prevention are minimal.



## PARTNERS:

- South King County cities
- System partners (law enforcement, medical, Child Protective Services, other providers)
- School Districts
- Faith based organizations
- Chambers of commerce
- Community leaders (formal and informal)
- Media

A faded, grayscale background image of a woman holding a baby. The woman is looking down at the baby with a gentle expression. The baby is wrapped in a patterned blanket and is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The image is positioned on the right side of the page, behind the text.

## **ACTION PLAN:**

1. Strengthen the system of services to ensure families can move through the crisis with access to expanded parenting education, parent child interaction training and mental health services.
2. Increase community knowledge about sexual assault and sex offender tactics.
3. From a violence prevention standpoint, establish an Allies Against Sexual Assault program with broad community participation.
4. Support local schools, as they implement SHB 1147, which requires greater coordination with law enforcement regarding notifications.

## **POLICY:**

- South King County cities will advocate for law enforcement agencies to systemize community notifications regarding sex offenders.

# Walkability

## RESULT:

- Everyone has access to safe places to walk. Sidewalks, trails and paths will be well known and well used.
- Children, adults and seniors will walk regularly, either for physical activity or to accomplish daily tasks.

## POPULATION:

- South King residents
- People who work in South King County



## INDICATORS:

1. Increased walkers in neighborhoods.
2. Increased pedestrian traffic in downtowns.
3. Increased use of trails and paths.
4. Decreased traffic at schools.
5. Increased participation in organized walks such as Volksmarch, benefit walks and half marathons.

## BASELINE DATA:

- Public Health Data from March 2005, showed 17.5 % of South King County adults

reporting no physical activity in leisure time in the past 30 days, significantly higher than other regions in the King County. The rate is highest in those over 65 at 21.1%

- South King County has a significantly higher percentage of overweight or obese adults (60.8%) than the other subregions and was higher than the County as a whole.

## STORY BEHIND THE BASELINE:

To encourage walking communities need safe, pleasant paths, sidewalks or trails, and destinations within a mile. Traditional development patterns often dictate the use of a car to accomplish daily tasks. Changing this pattern will require community support for improvements needed. For most people, walking is the easiest most accessible way to increase physical activity. Even when no weight loss occurs, health benefits are gained. Increased walking in neighborhoods and downtowns also increases safety and improves social connections which improves health.

## PARTNERS TO PLAY A ROLE:

- South King County cities
- King County
- Health care organizations
- Public Health of Seattle-King County
- Local businesses

## ACTION PLAN:

1. Assemble an inventory of trails, paths and walking areas.
2. Promote awareness and access to trails, paths and walkable areas through all partners in South King County.
3. Identify priority gaps, develop timetable and funds for closing those gaps.

***South King County has a higher percentage of overweight or obese residents than the rest of King County.***

## POLICY:

4. South King County cities will pass a resolution to promote the importance and values of walking.

# Turn the Curve...

## **POLICIES:**

- South King County cities will support the EITC campaign in their community.
- South King County cities will adopt the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.
- South King County cities will adopt community engagement as a goal.
- South King County cities will adopt early intervention services as a funding priority.
- South King County cities will support the continued development of the South King County Youth Coalition.
- South King County cities will support implementation of school based domestic violence curriculum.
- South King County cities will advocate for law enforcement agencies to systemize community notifications regarding sex offenders.
- South King County cities will pass a resolution to promote the importance and values of walking.

Policies Adopted 10/13/05 by the South King County Human Services Forum



# South King County Challenges

## Data highlights excerpted from Communities Count 2005:

- More residents of Seattle (12.5%) and South King County (12.5%) reported that their food money often or sometimes didn't last, compared to East King County (4.6%).
- Seattle and South King County had the highest percentage of adults who reported they couldn't always afford to eat balanced meals.
- Cities in South King County have a greater proportion of affordable housing for low income renters than the other regions.
- Only Seattle and a few cities in South King County offer any rental housing that is affordable to very low-income families.
- Seattle and King County have the greatest percentage of persons without a living wage income.
- 32% of South King County residents reported experiencing discrimination in 2004, compared to 29% of Seattle residents, 20% of North King County residents and 16% of East King County residents.
- In 2004, 80% of South King County households with children age 2-5 years reported that their children were read to every day by a family member. This percentage is lower than in other parts of the County.
- More Seattle residents were active in life-enriching activities than South King County (89% compared to 78%).
- In 2004, there was significantly lower perceived safety reported in South King County than in the other regions.
- The average homicide rate between 1994 and 2003 was highest in Seattle (5.7 per 1,000) and South King County (4.6 per 100,000).
- Seattle had the highest rate of domestic violence crimes between 1997 and 2003. South King County was the second highest subregion.
- South King County had the highest rate of violations of protection/no contact orders.
- The rate of major domestic violence crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) has increased since 1997 in South King County. In Seattle and in King County overall the rate declined during the same period of time.
- South King County has the highest rate of hospitalizations from motor vehicle injuries. South King County residents also have the highest rates of death from motor vehicle crashes.
- Overall, there has been a substantial decrease in toxic air emissions since the late 1980's, particularly in South King County.
- In 2003, 77% of all toxic release facilities were located in Seattle and South King County and 85% of the total pounds released were released in those two regions.
- In 2003, 75% of total pounds of toxics released in King County were from facilities in South King County, up from 55% in 2000.
- South King County has the highest infant death rates in King County (5.7 per 1,000 live births). (Rates have declined since the early 1980's in all regions except North King County.)
- On average from 2001-2003, the teen birth rates in South King County (14.8 per 1,000) and Seattle (11.6 per 1,000) were higher than in East King County (4.4 per 1,000) and North King County (5.2 per 1,000).
- The average teen birth rate was higher in the Tukwila, Highline and Auburn School Districts than the average for King County as a whole.
- South King County residents report feeling more stress than those in East King County, though the differences were not quite statistically significant.
- South King County has the highest smoking rate (20.4%) in the County, nearly double that of East King County (10.7%).
- South King County had a significantly higher average percentage (60.8%) of overweight or obese residents than the balance of the County.
- Between 2001 and 2003 South King County had the lowest proportion of adults who met the recommended level of moderate physical activity. 52.0% of South King County residents met the goal compared to

58.1% of Seattle residents, 55.8% of North King County residents and 55.8% of East King County residents.

- Between 2002 and 2004, South King County had the highest percentage of adults age 18-64 without health insurance. 18% of South King County adults did not have health insurance compared to 8.8% of East King County adults.
- In 2004 East King County (39.6%) had the highest social cohesion levels reported by residents, statistically significantly higher than South King County residents (37.4%) and Seattle (37.5%).
- South King County residents are somewhat less active in community organizations. 79% of South King County residents reported being very or somewhat active in one or more community organizations in 2004 compared to 86% of Seattle residents, 85% of East King County residents and 84% of North King County residents.
- Less than half of King County's adult population (40%) reported that they use public transportation. The heaviest use is in Seattle (66%) and the lowest use is in South King County (23%).
- South King County residents were less likely to have attended drama productions, plays or lectures in the last month than residents of other regions.
- South King County has the fewest arts/culture organizations and establishments.

To read the full text of Communities Count 2005, please visit [www.communitiescount.org](http://www.communitiescount.org).

## **Data highlights excerpted from Health of King County 2006:**

According to the Health of King County 2006, portions of South King County experience lower health status and more limited access to health care than other regions. South King County has joined Central and Southeast Seattle as the regions of the County experiencing the poorest health.

These regions have:

- The highest death rate and the lowest life expectancy in the County. While the death rate in this region is decreasing, the rate of decline is slower than in other parts of the County.
- Poorer maternal and child health indicators than the rest of the County. Infant mortality is increasing only in South King County and the rate of late or no prenatal care in South King County is not improving as it is in other regions. The South Seattle/South King County area also has the highest rates of low birthweight, very low birthweight, preterm delivery, adolescent birth and late or no prenatal care.
- Higher rates of chronic diseases and risk factors. The prevalence of diabetes is rising more rapidly in South King County and diabetes mortality is higher. Asthma hospitalizations among children are more common. The smoking rate has not declined during the past decade as it has in other regions.
- The highest rates of death from motor vehicle injuries and firearms.
- The highest rate of hospitalization for pneumonia and influenza.
- The highest rates of serious mental health problems and health complications from illicit drug use.

To read the full text of Health of King County 2006, please visit <http://www.metrokc.gov/health/hokc/index.htm>

**The South King County Human Services Forum** organized to support the effective delivery of human services throughout South King County. The group held their first meeting in November 1999. The Forum is a formalized body of elected officials, or their designees, from municipal governments, United Way of King County and Public Health Seattle & King County. Currently, fifteen out of the sixteen cities in South King County have joined the Forum.

**DATA SOURCES:** 2000 U.S. Census, Communities Count 2002, Communities Count 2005, United Way of King County Health and Human Service Community Assessment, Facing the Future: The State of Human Services in Washington, Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, Health of King County 2006.

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